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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/574,449	05/19/2000	Tom T.J. de Groot	PHB 34,345	8620

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Wu

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/574,449

Applicant(s)

DE GROOT ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed Aug. 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 7, applicants argue, with respect to claim 1, that Oh fails to disclose or suggest "a plurality of external speakers".

In response, the examiner respectfully disagree. Oh et al discloses in col. 2, lines 60-65 that "The CDP-incorporated television receiver includes a CRT 10, **a pair of speakers 12**, a pair of microphone connecting jacks 14, a disk door 16, an open/close button 18, a receiving window 20 for the transmitted signal from a remote controller (not shown), a power indication lamp 22, a main power button 24, and a control box 26". The pair of speakers 12 of Oh et al anticipate the claimed "a plurality of external speakers" as recited in claim 1 because the pair of speakers 12 are considered to be external with respect to a television signal receiver 32, a compact disk player 34, a video signal processor 36, a power source 40, and a television controller 42.

In re pages 7-8, applicants argue that item 4 of the Office Action, merely concludes that the one external speaker is a center channel, without citing any basis for the conclusion.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Oh et al discloses in col. 3, lines 32-36 that "An audio signal processor 38 is included for selectively receiving an signal-processing an audio signal A1 from television signal receiver 32 or an audio **signal A2 from compact disk player 34** and outputting the processed signal as sound

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via a pair of audio converters (speakers) 12". It is noted that the claimed "an audio receiver" is anticipated by the compact disk player 34 of Oh et al, the claimed "a center audio channel" is anticipated by the audio signal A2 of Oh et al, and the audio signal A2 of Oh et al is connected to the input of the television receiver as claimed. Thus, Oh et al does indeed disclose the claimed limitations of claim 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 4-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oh et al (US Patent No. 5,646,699).

In considering claim 1, Oh et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a tuner configured to receive and separate broadcast video and audio signals is met by the video signal processor 36 for selectively receiving and signal-processing the video signal V1 from television signal receiver 32 or a video signal V2 from compact disk player 34 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 14-32 and col. 4, lines 34-56), 2) the claimed a display screen coupled with a display driver arranged to receive and display video signals from the tuner is met by the CRT driver 48 and the CRT 10 (Fig. 3, col. 3, line 28 to col. 4, line 7), 3) the claimed one or more speakers coupled with audio signal processing means arrange to receive, process and output two or more audio channel signal from the tuner is met by the audio signal processor 38 and a pair of audio

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converters (speakers)12 (Fig. 3, col. 3, line 33 to col. 4, line 44), and 4) the claimed an input for a further audio signal, said input coupled to a control and switching means operable (1) to connect said input to the audio signal processing means, (2) disconnect the coupling of tuner, audio signal processing means, (3) automatically set the receiver to provide a predetermined volume for the one or more speakers, and (4) enables selective output of the two or more audio channel signals to a plurality of external speakers and the one or more speakers, whilst coupled to said input is met by the amplifier 60 and the audio input amplifier 68 which are amplified in order to generate a **single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels** of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 and the third selector 62 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

In considering claim 4, the claimed wherein the control and switching means is operable to connect the audio signal processing means for each channel to said input is met by the microprocessor 84 which generates switching control signals X1 to X6 for controlling the selectors 74, 44, 50, 54, 72 and 62, respectively (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

In considering claim 5, the claimed wherein said control and switching means is coupled to said display driver and is further operable to selectively disable video signal display on said display screen is met by the selector 44 which selects and outputs video signal V1 from television receiver 32 or video signal V2 from compact disk player 34 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 38-63).

In considering claim 6, the claimed further comprising user operable input means, wherein said display driver is configured to generate for display a menu of user selectable items including connection of said audio signal processing means to either the tuner or said input is met by the remote controller (Figs. 1 and 2, col. 2, line 58 to col. 3, line 27).

In considering claim 7, the claimed coupled with an audio receiver and, via the audio receiver, to the plurality of speakers, wherein the audio receiver has an output for a centre audio channel connected to said input of the television receiver is met by an audio signal processor 38 is included for selectively receiving an signal-processing an audio signal A1 from television signal receiver 32 or an audio **signal A2 from compact disk player 34** and outputting the processed signal as sound via a pair of audio converters (speakers) 12 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 32-36).

In considering claim 8, the claimed wherein the audio receiver comprises audio signal processing means connected to receive and process audio signals from the television receiver tuner and output at least some of the processed signals on the centre audio channel is met by the audio signal processor 38 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 33-37 and col. 4, lines 8-44).

In considering claim 9, the claimed further comprising one or more additional audio signal sources connected to the audio receiver is met by the plurality of externally input audio signals A11, A12 and S-A (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-23).

In considering claim 10, the claimed further comprising one or more video plus audio signal sources coupled with the television receiver, the television being configured

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to pass audio signals from such sources to the audio receiver for processing is met by the external video signal (e.g., V11, V12, S-VHS) (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 34-44 and col. 6, lines 21-38).

In considering claim 11, the claimed further including a user operable input means to enable selection of the audio signal processing means to either the tuner or input is met by the fifth selector 72 which selects and outputs an audio signal from television receiver 32 or at least one signal from among a plurality of externally input audio signals A11, A12 and S-A (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-44).

In considering claim 12, the claimed wherein a volume of each of the one or more speakers and the plurality of external speakers are substantially equal is met by the amplifier 60 and the audio input amplifier 68 which are amplified in order to generate **a single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels** of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

Claim 13 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.

In considering claim 14, the claimed wherein the audio signal processing means includes volume control, and the control and switching means fixes operating parameters by setting the volume control to a predetermined fixed level is met by the surround processor 64 and the amplifiers 60, 68 which is amplified in order to generate a single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-33).

In considering claim 15, the claimed wherein the tuner is arranged to output audio signals on two or more channels, the receiver comprising a speaker coupled with

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respective audio signal processing means for each such channel is met by the dual-channel (L/R) signal (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-33).

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 5.

Claim 17 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 7.

Claim 18 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.


Claims 19-20 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 14-15, respectively.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-0090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT TT
January 21, 2005


JOHN MILLER
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